

Job 41:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His breath kindleth coals, and a flame goeth out of his mouth.

Analysis

"His breath kindleth coals, and a flame goeth out of his mouth." Leviathan's breath ignites coals (gachalim, גַּחְלִים) and produces flame. The imagery emphasizes destructive power concentrated in its very breath—the most natural, continual action. This teaches that some forces are inherently, constantly dangerous. Their threat doesn't require special provocation. Yet God created and controls such forces, demonstrating that even perpetual dangers remain under sovereign governance.

Historical Context

Fire-breathing dragons appeared in various ancient mythologies. Unlike pagan myths where such creatures threatened cosmic order, biblical Leviathan remains under Yahweh's control. This distinguished biblical faith—no threat, however perpetual or powerful, challenges God's sovereignty.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What perpetual dangers—constant threats—must you trust to God's ongoing sovereign control?
2. How does recognizing even constant dangers as under divine governance produce peace?

Interlinear Text

נִפְשׁוֹ	גְּחָלִים	תִּלְיָה ט	וּלְהַב	מִפִּי יוֹ	יֵצֵא׃
His breath	coals	kindleth	and a flame	of his mouth	goeth out
H5315	H1513	H3857	H3851	H6310	H3318

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 18:8 (Parallel theme): There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.